

Remarks

In an Office Action dated August 5, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 21-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 38 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,314,227 to Eventoff (Eventoff) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Eventoff in view of Pub. US 2002/0055384 A1 to Armstrong (Armstrong '384) or Pub. US 2002/0024503 A1 (Armstrong '503). The Examiner rejected claims 2, 10, 23, 30 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eventoff, Armstrong '384 or Armstrong '503 in further view of U.S. Pat. No. xxxx to Burgess (Burgess) or U.S. Patent No. 6,531,951 to Serban *et al.* (Serban). The Examiner rejected claims 28 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eventoff, Armstrong '384 or Armstrong '503 in further view of Japanese Pub. JP 52-5697 to Naemura *et al.* (Naemura). The Examiner rejected claims 9, 29 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eventoff, Armstrong '384 or Armstrong '503 in further view of Pub. US 2002/0192939 to Sugihara or U.S. Pat. No. 6,184,124 to Hasegawa *et al.* The Examiner rejected claims 4, 23, 28, 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eventoff, Armstrong '384 or Armstrong '503 in further view Serban. The Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 25, 26, 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eventoff, Armstrong '384 or Armstrong '503 in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,087,925 to DeVolpi *et al.*

Claims 1-53 were pending in this application. Claims 11-20 and 41-53 were previously withdrawn from consideration and have been canceled in this paper. Claims 3 and 22 have been canceled; claim 54 has been added and claims 1, 4, 6, 21, 23 and 31 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants thanks Examiner Easthom for conducting a telephonic interview with the undersigned on December 6, 2004. The Examiner agreed that the claims, as amended, overcome the art cited by the Examiner.

Claim 1, as amended, provides an electronic pressure sensitive transducer producing an electrical signal indicative of applied pressure. The transducer includes a printed

circuit board with a plurality of conductive traces formed thereon to define a contact area. A flexible substrate has an inner surface positioned over the contact area. An adhesive spacer and a pedestal substantially surround the contact area. The adhesive spacer and the pedestal attach the flexible substrate to the printed circuit board. The pedestal including conductive traces on the printed circuit board. At least one resistive layer is deposited on the flexible substrate inner surface. The resistive layer contacts at least two of the traces in response to pressure applied to the flexible substrate to produce the electrical signal indicative of applied pressure.

The Examiner admits that neither Eventoff, Armstrong '384 or Armstrong '503 disclose Applicants' pedestal. For this, the Examiner relies on Serban, stating the following on page 5:

Serban discloses at Figs. 2a-2b the conductors 32, 34 emanating out from under the pedestal 16 so that the traces can communicate with electrical devices or power, such that it would have been obvious to have the pedestal over the traces for that purpose.

Claim 1 provides that the pedestal is made of conductive traces. Serban neither teaches nor suggests such a pedestal. Serban discloses an "intercalated separator 16" made from "a two sided adhesive band." (Serban, col. 4, ll. 23-31.) Thus, Serban neither teaches nor suggests Applicants' pedestal. Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1, are therefore also patentable.

Independent claim 21, as amended, provides a printed circuit board electronic pressure sensitive transducer assembly which includes, *inter alia*, a pedestal formed of conductive material on a printed circuit board. For the same reason argued above with regard to claim 1, claim 21 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 22-30 depend from claim 21 and are therefore also patentable.

Independent claim 31 provides a printed circuit board electronic pressure sensitive transducer assembly including, *inter alia*, a pedestal substantially surrounding a contact area. The pedestal forms a flat area higher than conductive traces in the contact area. The pedestal includes the same conductive material used to form the conductive traces. For

the same reason argued above with regard to claim 1, claim 31 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 32-40 depend from claim 31 and are therefore also patentable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 21 and 31 under § 112, second paragraph. Applicants believe that these claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

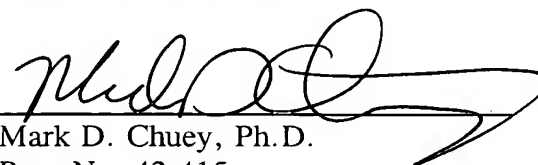
Applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention pending U.S. Pat. Appl. Ser. No. 10/337,458, titled "Miniature Highly Manufacturable Mouse Pointing Device," also assigned to Interlink Electronics, Inc. Applicants do not believe the claims of this copending application raise a double patenting issue with the claims of the present application.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 21, 23-40 and 54 are pending in this application. Applicants believe that these claims, as amended, meet all substantive requirements for patentability and respectfully request that the Examiner pass this case to issuance. A check is enclosed to cover the Petition fee of \$110. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978 as specified in the Application Transmittal.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any aspect of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 6, 2004

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